(b) if so, when and where such declaration was made;

(c) the hindrance in the implementation of the said declaration; and

(d) by when this hindrance would be removed and whether some multinational companies have also got themselves registered under the S.S.I, units after raising the ceiling upto three crore rupees; if so, the names of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS-TREIS AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) The investment ceiling for SSI units was raised to Rs. 300 lakh from Rs. 60 lakh on December 11, 1997. Govemment have decided to reduce the SSI investment limit to Rs. IGO lakh, which was also announced by the Prime Minister at the Laghu Udyog Bharati Function held on 21.8.1999. Notification to that effect is being issued.

As per the legal provisions governing SSI definition, other industrial undertakings, including foreign companies, are not permitted to invest beyond 24% in the equity of an SSI unit. In the event of such investment exceeding 24% the unit concerned shall have to forego its SSI status. Accordingly, other industrial undertakings, including multinational companies, are not eligible to get themselves registered as an SSI unit nor can they claim SSI Status.

Representation from the Government of Kerala Regarding MEP for Coir Products

1674. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI CO. POULOSE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANIAN:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment received any representation from the Government of Kerala requesting for retaining the Minimum Export Price Fixed for 1997 for coir and coir products?

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by Govemment; tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whetehr the coir factory workers and small scale coir factory owners have opposed the move; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATS-TICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was not found possible to grant expost facto approval to revise the MEP (Minimum Export Price) from 22.08.97

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have not accepted the proposal of the Coir Board to revise the MEP upwards from 22.08.97.

MEP for Coir Products

1675. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Board has taken any decision to phaseout MEP for coir products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board has discussed this matter with workers and other organisations working in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): *(a)* to (d) Coir Board in consultation with workers and other organisations working in the coir sector has recommended exclusion